CLAIMS

1. A computer-implemented method for providing code to computer systems, comprising:

receiving base code and developer-specified characteristics of the base code from a developer;

translating the received base code into an intermediate code;

evaluating the intermediate code to determine whether the received base code satisfies the developer-specified characteristics;

notifying the developer whether the received base code satisfies the developer-specified characteristics;

receiving a request for target code from a requester, the request including requester-specified characteristics that the target code should satisfy;

selecting intermediate code that matches the requester-specified characteristics;

transforming the selected intermediate code to target code in accordance with the requester-specified characteristics; and

sending the target code to the requester.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the base code is source code and the target code is executable code.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the evaluating includes determining whether the developer is authorized to submit base code.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the developer-specified characteristics identify a functional category for the code.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the functional categories include networking, communications, client-server, user interface, Internet browsing, electronic mail,

audio, video, telephony, television, compression, encryption, logging, feature manager, hardware interface, or miscellaneous.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the transforming includes optimizing the intermediate code in accordance with the requester-specified characteristics.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the transforming includes compiling the intermediate code to produce executable target code in accordance with the requester-specified characteristics.

8. The method of claim 1 including billing for providing the target code to the requester.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the billing includes compensating the developer for the sending of target code that is based on base code provided by the developer.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein the billing is based on per use receiving of target code by the requester.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein the billing includes differential billing based on the requester-specified characteristics.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the transforming of the intermediate code uses beads of a *Strings*-based operating environment.

13. A computer-implemented method for processing developer-provided code to be distributed to requesters when requested, comprising:

receiving base code and developer-specified characteristics of the base code from a developer;

evaluating the base code to determine whether it satisfies the developer-specified characteristics;

notifying the developer whether the received base code satisfies the developer-specified characteristics; and

when target code that derives from the received base code is distributed to a requester, compensating the developer.

14. The method of claim 13 including:

receiving a request for target code from a requester, the request including requester-specified characteristics that the target code should satisfy;

selecting intermediate code that matches the requester-specified characteristics;

transforming the selected intermediate code to target code in accordance with the requester-specified characteristics; and

sending the target code to the requester.

15. A computer-based method for providing code for computer systems, comprising:

providing a collection of intermediate code;

receiving a request for target code from a requester, the request including requester-specified characteristics that the target code should satisfy;

selecting intermediate code that matches the requester-specified characteristics;

transforming the selected intermediate code to target code in accordance with the requester-specified characteristics; and

sending the target code to the requester.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the selecting uses a least-squares analysis based various characteristics of the intermediate code.

17. The method of claim 15 wherein the selecting is based on processor speed requirements, processor type, or memory requirements.